

The 18th Battalion MRC Target Shooting Rules & Guidance

v1.1 – Nov. 2019

Sources Referenced

National Rifle Association UK - 'Bisley Bible';
Ministry of Defence UK - Pamphlet No. 20 'Competition Shooting' in Part III 'Target Shooting' and definitions JSP403 Vol.IV;
National Rifle Association of Australia and its' state bodies;
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia;
Australian Defence Force Army publication, 'Australian Army Skill at Arms';
Manual of Land Warfare (MLW 2-9-2 Range Regulations) superseded by Publication LWP-G 7-3-1 ADF Range Orders (Land) 2012;
Musketry Regulations Part 1 (1912 with amendments);
Infantry Training (4 Company) 1914;
New South Wales Muzzle Loading Association Inc, (NSWMLA);
Black powder enthusiasts in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Finding that which is required and works, then adopting it in the interests of public and individual safety is the motivation driving this publication. Quoted from Pamphlet No. 20, remembering always *"target shooting is a test of skill, concentration, self-discipline and team-work; it is also social, friendly and fun"*.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Ammunition

Except where the use of issued or service ammunition is specified in the match rules, factory or hand-loaded ammunition in the appropriate calibre may be used consistent with the limits imposed on the shooting range. Hand-loaded ammunition must conform, charge wise, to the propellant powder manufacturer's specifications.

Range Officers

Ranges will be under the direction of a Range Officer and such Assistant/s or Safety Officer/s as may be appointed shall be accredited in line with Guidance. Where targets are operated from a trench then a Butts Officer will be appointed under the Range Officer. Where more than one range is in use then radio contact is to be maintained between the Range Officers.

Range Safety

The safety of shooters, range officers, spectators and the general public is of paramount importance and requires continued and careful attention to the handling of firearms and caution in moving about on the range. Self-discipline is necessary on the part of all. It is the duty of Range Officers to enforce discipline, where necessary, and the duty of shooters and officials to co-operate and assist in such enforcement. Range conduct and safety rules for all ranges are laid down in Range Operating Procedures and Range Standing Orders applicable to a specific range or complex thereof.

It is essential that disciplines ensure that all new members are introduced to the safety code appropriate to the discipline. It should not be assumed that because a newcomer has had some level of training, they will be competent with the firearm or environment - presume they know nothing. Supervision is an essential part of inoculating a new shooter as to the correct, safest way.

Safety Precautions

- Firearms must be unloaded at all times, except when they are being used under the orders of a Range Officer on the firing line. Unloaded means; no cartridge or pellet is to be in the chamber, on the loading platform or in a magazine, whether fixed or removable.
- The bolt must be removed. Or in the case of a pump, slide or lever action the action of the firearm must be open and the chamber entrance / ejection port either open to view or, where appropriate, have a breech or chamber flag inserted even when cased.
- If a flag is unavailable, the bolt if it can, must be removed.
- If the bolt cannot be removed then a trigger lock is fitted.
- A firer may not leave the firing point without first having the firearm examined by the Range Officer or other persons delegated for that duty and the firearm declared a second time 'clear', then 'safe to remove'.
- When finished secure the firearm, ammunition and accrements in a locked vehicle out of sight.

Remembering always *"target shooting is a test of skill, concentration, self-discipline and team-work; it is also social, friendly and fun"*.

1 Introduction - Service Rifle

1.1 These rules specify the procedures that are to be followed in all matches and events. Competitions will be conducted by the Club offering two styles of shooting based on Black Powder or Smokeless Powder across four classes of cartridge rifle for competition purposes, namely;

- Service Rifle 'a' - Standard,
- Service Rifle 'b' - Modified,
- Service Rifle 'c' - Optical and
- Open Class - Any, including field rifles.

Note that an overall limit of 8mm calibre for centrefire smokeless cartridge rifles applies as a condition of the Range Approval at Hornsby and lower velocity, lead projectile only calibres are permitted above the 8mm limit. Magnum rifle calibres are not to be used.

1.2 These rules may be modified at the discretion of the Club with regard to match conditions, modification of rifle, dress and equipment, conduct of shooting, marking and scoring and the method of exposing the targets. Note that muzzle brakes are allowed at the discretion of the Range Officer when fitted as standard equipment.

1.3 When challenging the organiser's determination of the class of rifle, the onus of proof falls to the competitor to provide acceptable written evidence of their claim. Note that the organiser's decision after considering any claim shall be final.

1.4 It is expected that rifles will be 'zeroed' at the distance being undertaken where the point-of-aim equals the point-of-impact. Where any doubt exists the rifle is to be 'declared' to the Range Officer who will inform the Butts Officer and markers to pay special attention to the fall of shot. Where determined the fall of shot location will be communicated to the Range Officer whom shall inform the shooter.

1.5 In most instances the match commences once the target is struck by the first sighting shot that can be scored, otherwise it is usually two sighting shots only to either optionally count or not.

1.6 During competitions, competitors whilst on the firing point;

- a) may spot and score for each other
- b) should attempt to observe fall of shot for a competitor whose first sighter may or has missed the target, until a scoring shot is achieved, and should provide such information on fall of shot as can be determined
- c) may advise on appropriate wind allowance to a competitor who is rectifying first shot misses of the intended target, and
- d) subject to (b) and (c) above, must not give or willingly receive coaching.

1.7 Where convertible sighting shots are permitted, the following shall apply:

- a) After a competitor has fired their sighting shots, they shall elect to count the 2nd sighting shot alone, or both 1st and 2nd, in their score, but not the 1st on its own. They also may choose to strike both out. The competitor, or in team matches a nominated person, must declare an intention to the scorer before any further shot is fired. In the absence of such declaration, both sighting shots are deemed to be the first two recorded counting towards the score.
- b) If a competitor converts one or both sighters and then fires additional shots beyond the requirements of the competition, any such excess shots fired shall not be considered.

2 Class of Rifle

2.1 Service Rifle 'a' - Standard

- a) Military type rifles with either turning bolt, straight-pull or hinged block action with open iron rear sight with a post front sight that meets the following criteria may be used:-
- b) The rifle must have been of service issue within the defence forces of a nation to the soldier, sailor, airman or marine.
- c) The rifle must be externally complete as issued with the stock, sights, barrel and sling being of original service pattern. Replacement barrels may dispense with bayonet lugs but must be of the original service profile. Faithful reproduction stocks and slings are permitted provided the rifle is externally complete as issued.
- d) Calibre of ammunition used must be that of the original service issued calibre.

2.1.1 Service Rifle 'b' - Modified

The Modified class firearm is a Standard rifle that differs from the definition in 2.1 by virtue of being fitted with after-market sights (aperture / non optical), non-original calibre, modified stock, barrel being different to the original service profile, recoil pad, bipod, magazine adaptations and military or non-military type sling.

2.1.2 Service Rifle 'c' - Optical

Original genuine issue military rifles for marksman or sniper use, or faithful reproductions, may be used. Note that magnification is limited to the lowest, or to no more than 4x, across all rifles shooting in this classification under match conditions.

2.1.3 Open Class - Any

Open Class firearms are all others clearly not of original manufacture for military use or in the same style that includes any long arm with any sighting system.

2.2 A faithful reproduction is defined as any rifle:-

- a) that is made up 'in the spirit' from original and after-market parts, and
- b) is externally complete compared to the military issue.

3 Rifle Components

3.1 Sights

Sights may be blackened, or definition applied to the rear of the foresight, i.e., a contrasting colour intended to stand out against the target. Non original components are not to be used to shade the eye, or sights or alter the originality of the rifle. Rear sight lenses or filters not permitted. If in doubt, "is it in the spirit?" probably not.

3.1.1 SR'a' - Standard

There is no adjustment of the foresight once the match starts. The rear sight may be adjusted in elevation and for wind during the course of fire, provided the rear leaf sight is of a windage type as issued. Note that, if the rear sight is of the aperture type, i.e., Lee Enfield No. 4, P14 / P17, no after-market device is permitted that will reduce the size of the aperture or allow for windage adjustment. If so fitted then into the Modified class it goes.

3.1.2 SR'b' - Modified

There is no adjustment of the foresight once the match starts. Any modified rifle that is fitted with an adjustable rear sight with windage adjustment, e.g., Rawson or Central Sight, is permitted to be adjusted for elevation and wind during the course of a match.

3.1.3 Optical

There is no restriction applied to sight adjustments other than a maximum magnification limit as noted in 2.1.2.

3.1.4 Open Class - Any

There is no restriction applied to sight adjustments or magnification other than there is no adjustment of the foresight (if fitted and used) once the match starts.

3.2 Slings

3.2.1 Standard, Modified and Optical Class

As an aid to steadiness a sling if fitted may be used. The sling must be of a service pattern or faithful reproduction of a service issue to the rifle being used. Attached to either one or two sling swivels the sling may be placed around one arm and / or wrist but not around any other part of the shooter's body. The sling can be wrapped around the fore end of the rifle. A sling attached to the rifle must not interfere with carrying out rifle handling safely. If a sling is fitted and not used, it may drape or be gathered up.

Note for Lee Enfield's (SMLE) - The King Screw Swivel also known as a Competition Sling Swivel (fitted in front of the trigger guard) is not an issue item. This is an after-market accessory and can be fitted but not used on a SR'a' Standard firearm in competition. It is permitted for use with SR'b' Modified, SR'c' Optical and Open Class rifles.

3.2.2 Open Class

There are no restrictions on sling type or style yet safety while carrying and handling the firearm is paramount. Secure a loose sling before moving from your position or when leaving the firing point.

3.3 Triggers

3.3.1 Standard, Modified and Optical Class

All triggers shall have a minimum trigger weight of 1.5kg. Single and two stage triggers are permitted.

3.3.2 Match triggers are not permitted for Standard, Modified or Optical matches. There are no restrictions applying to Open Class other than a minimum trigger weight of 1.0kg.

3.3.3 Vigorous Cycle Test

If requested by the Range Officer or is required as part of Match conditions, the steps to be followed are;

- a) Cycle the bolt closed and then fully open - Do Not pull the trigger. Make sure the chamber is empty before proceeding any further. Visually check that the chamber is empty.
- b) Close the bolt confidently with enough force demonstrating engagement of the sear is adequate and safe. If a Snapcap is required it is to be inserted in the breech before the bolt is closed.
- c) If directed to do so, cycle the bolt from open to fully closed, then open and repeat three times. The firing pin should never 'slip' off the sear leading to an unintended discharge.
- d) If a military two-stage trigger, carefully feel the first creep or resistance up to the hold point, then slowly apply sufficient force to defeat the break point causing the firing pin to strike.
- e) If a single stage trigger, squeeze the trigger to release showing that the sear engagement has worked.
- f) If the test has passed the Range Officer or Scorer (if so nominated) can give the shooter an All Clear to proceed.
- g) If the rifle fails the vigorous cycling test, the rifle will be declared unsafe and the Range Officer will be immediately notified.

3.4 Safety Catch

3.4.1 If fitted, the rifle is to have a functioning safety catch.

3.5 Barrels

3.5.1 Any barrel made and proofed to replicate an original service issued barrel shall be permitted in any style and class of rifle used in any match conducted by the Club.

3.5.2 Muzzle brakes are not permitted to be used on any class of rifle except as referred to in 1.2. Note that, muzzle brakes are not to be confused with flash eliminators such as fitted to the No.5 rifle.

3.5.3 Where a No. 1 rifle is fitted with a 'H' (for heavy) barrel and is fitted with an as-issued rear leaf sight then it satisfies SR'a' Standard. Where no rear leaf sight to a 'H' barrel is fitted an after-market rear peep / aperture sight is to be used satisfying SR'b' Modified.

3.5.4 Careful note is to be made by the shooter before loading the firearm that the calibre of ammunition is appropriate to the calibre of barrel being used. This information is often stamped into the barrel (near the chamber) or the receiver.

4 Dress and Equipment

4.1 Clothing:-

4.1.1 The clothing worn is for outdoors, street or field and is robust enough for the activity engaged in. It needs to be suitable for the climate on the day. Summer lighter, winter heavier and warmer.

4.1.2 Speciality coats specifically made for shooting, as well as jackets and / or trousers, (as used in S&M, Full Bore) etc., are not permitted. A good ex-military field jacket of a plain colour or the like serves the purpose well.

4.1.3 Elbow and shoulder pads can be sewn in, pinned or strapped on to the outer garments but must not be more extensive than is necessary to protect the elbow and shoulder area.

4.1.4 Any thing that may be seen to provide artificial support for the rifle, sling or competitors limbs or torso, are not permitted on or in the outer or under garments.

4.1.5 Footwear that is fully enclosed must be worn at all times. Bare feet, thongs, sandals, etc., are not permitted on the firing mound or in the butts.

4.1.6 Headgear such as Specialist Target Rifle shooting hats are prohibited. Any other hat or head covering is permitted, providing it is and can be secured by a chin strap or other method. Note that, should a competitor lose their hat forward of the firing line the Range Officer must be notified. Only with the permission of the Range Officer can they retrieve it after the practice, match or stage is complete and all rifles are cleared. If it is lost to the sides or to the rear, the competitor may retrieve it, provided it is safe to do so and only when the proposed action is notified to and approved by the Range Officer.

4.1.7 Wet Weather Gear may be used and worn but must not be more extensive than is necessary.

4.1.8 The use of firing point cover, such as pergolas, or tenting is permitted provided all shooters benefit from the cover.

4.2 Hearing Protection

4.2.1 Hearing protection is mandatory for all competitors, visitors and range staff whilst on or about the firing mound or in the butts. It is recommended that appropriate hearing protection be worn whilst in the vicinity of the firing mound or in the butts. The use of ear plugs and ear muffs together is encouraged.

4.3 Gloves

4.3.1 Gloves and shooting mitts of any type or style are not permitted in Standard, Modified Class or Optical Class. No restrictions apply to Open Class.

4.4 Ground Sheets

4.4.1 A ground sheet may be used in all courses of fire for the protection of clothing and / or equipment, provided that it is not constructed or used in such a way as to provide artificial support for the competitor or their rifle.

4.4.2 Target / specialist shooting mats are not permitted to be used in their intended manner where the firing mound is of a natural material, e.g., grass or dirt. They may be used provided they are turned over or around 180 degrees.

4.4.3 Target / specialist shooting mats, rubber underlay, or any other suitable protective material are permitted on ranges that have hard firing mounds made of concrete or bitumen or the like.

4.5 Shooting Glasses

4.5.1 No eye-wear is to have sight blinkers, side blinds, aperture, sighting aid or any device that is clearly attached to the lens. Safety glasses, prescription spectacles, contact lenses, coloured shooting glasses, sunglasses with conventional frames and specialist shooting glasses (monocular style) are permitted.

4.6 Optical Aids

4.6.1 Binoculars, monoculars, telescopes and spotting scopes are permitted provided their stands or tripods do not inconvenience other competitors and they provide no support of or shelter to the rifle or competitor.

5 Ammunition

5.1 No tracer, incendiary or armour piercing projectiles may be used under any circumstances. It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that the ammunition used is of a permitted type provided that the calibre is approved for the target shooting range and is in accordance with the prescribed match conditions. This applies to all military, surplus, factory and hand-loaded ammunition.

5.2 Hand-loaded ammunition may be assembled with any commercially available components. Projectile type and mass may vary (within safe limits) from original specifications provided it is of the correct calibre and is charge loaded within the powder manufacturer's specification.

5.3 Ammunition can be scrutinised at the Club's discretion and the Range Officer has the right to disallow and remove any competitor's ammunition that is in their considered opinion to be defective or unsafe to be fired. The onus for future use then falls to the competitor.

5.3.1 If the Range Officer disallows and removes any ammunition from a competitor, it is to be returned to the competitor at the completion of the match or competition.

6 Rifle Functioning, Safety and Readiness Orders

6.1 Misfires, Jams and Breakages

6.1.1 For all matches or parts thereof within a competition the Competitor is required to use the same rifle. Where a rifle becomes unserviceable due to mechanical failure or for safety reasons, the condition is to be verified by the Range Officer and / or a knowledgeable adjudicator from the organising body.

A competitor may with the permission of the Range Officer, use another rifle. No allowance will be given for a misfired round or jams due to a defect or breakage in either the rifle or magazine, or any action caused or taken by the firer.

6.1.2 For a round that does not discharge during the deliberate stage of a matches or sighting shots, a competitor must wait then may replace the defective round and continue provided that it is safe to do so. During rapid and snap matches, a misfired round will not entitle the competitor to a re-shoot.

6.1.3 In any match, the competitor is only to fire the prescribed number of rounds as outlined in the match conditions. A fired round is defined as any round fired by the competitor whereby the projectile leaves the barrel.

6.1.4 Where a round behaves as if is not charged or charged with very little powder, a 'squib' load, then the rifle is to be notified to the Range Officer, the bolt and ammunition removed and rifle and shooter retire from the firing mound. The barrel is to be inspected for obstruction and if so found to be, then the rifle is deemed defective and not to be used until such time as the obstruction is cleared.

6.2 Blockages and Separation

6.2.1 If a firearm cannot be unloaded in the normal manner, the firer is to leave it on the firing point pointing towards the butts with the breech open and / or bolt and any remaining ammunition removed. The firer is to inform the Range Officer immediately. The firearm is to remain pointing towards the butts until the detail has finished and all firers have cleared the firing point. The Range Officer is to arrange for a competent person or armorer or a person designated by the club to remove the firearm for repair. For an unfired round a stuck-round removal tool is to be used and at no time is a cleaning rod to be inserted into the muzzle to remove the live round.

6.2.2 In the event of a cartridge being extracted and the projectile remains behind, held firm into the lands, the rifle is to be made safe and any ammunition is to be removed. The firer is to inform the Range Officer immediately. After confirmation from the Range Officer the projectile may be removed with a cleaning rod or similar object having first removed the firearm from the mound to a safe area.

6.2.3 If on discharge a 'case head separation' occurs, the firer is to immediately cease-fire and notify the Range Officer. Should ammunition be present in the magazine, the magazine is to be removed or where inconvenient due to design or complexity all remaining rounds are to be carefully removed. The Range Officer is to arrange for a competent person or armorer or a person designated by the club to inspect and effect any removal of the remaining case and checking the bore is clear.

7 Trigger Testing

7.1 When, and if triggers are tested, they are to be randomly tested at the completion of an individual serial and at the Club's discretion.

7.1.1 If a rifle fails the test, the competitor is to surrender the rifle into the possession of the Range Officer who is to retest the trigger with the competitor present as a witness to the test after the rifle cools down. If the trigger continues to fail, the competitor will forfeit the score from that match. In the event of an appeal, the competitor is not to use that rifle until the appeal has been dealt with. The competitor may use an alternative rifle pending the completion of the appeal process. If the appeal is upheld, the points forfeit will be reinstated.

7.1.2 When scrutinising applies before a competition, all triggers are to be tested resisting a minimum pull-off weight. Those that fail can be retested once adjustments have been effected, but the rifle shall not be presented for testing no more than three (3) times.

7.2 Dry firing with an unloaded rifle may only be done with the Range Officer's permission from the firing mound provided no one is in front of the firing point. The rifle must be cleared safe before the shooter retires from the mound with that rifle.

8 Firing Point Readiness Orders

8.1 'Load'

On the command 'Load', the competitor is to secure a loaded magazine into the rifle or place rounds manually into the magazine using a charger clip or by single round loading, or in the case of a single-shot rifle by direct loading to the chamber of the rifle. The action is to be in the open condition until the command 'Action' is given.

8.1.1 Before conducting a walk-down during a match, all rounds are to be removed from the magazine or the magazine removed and the action is to be open - the rifle must be clear of ammunition. The Range Officer is to ensure this is carried out before the competitors depart from the firing point. The muzzle is to be directed towards the butts area and the trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard. The rifle will be transported horizontally at the carry. On arriving at the next distance the shooter is to wait for the 'Load' command before recharging the magazine or chamber while keeping the muzzle directed towards the butts at all times.

8.2 'Action' and 'Instant'

On the command 'Action', competitors are to close the action in a manner that feeds and then locks a round into the chamber and cocks the firing pin. The rifle is to be in the shoulder whilst chambering a round with the muzzle pointed towards the target and butts area. The trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard. Safety devices are engaged. On the command 'Instant' the safety catch is disengaged.

8.3 'Is Anyone Not Ready?'

The shooter is to indicate to the Range Officer in an appropriate and safe manner they are not ready to commence the practice, i.e., not in the Action condition.

8.4 'Watch and Shoot' or 'In Your Own Time, Go On'

On the command 'Watch and Shoot', or, 'In Your Own Time, Go On', the finger may be placed inside the trigger guard and upon the appearance of the target and on establishing their aim point, the competitor may commence firing in accordance with the match conditions.

8.5 'Unload'

On the command 'Unload', the action of the rifle is to be opened, the chamber and the magazine are to be inspected by the competitor to ensure that both are free from live rounds or empty cases.

8.6 'Inspect Firearms'

On the command 'Inspect Firearms', the competitor is to remove the bolt from the rifle (where possible) and present the rifle for visual inspection by two safety officers.

8.6.1 If it is not possible to remove the bolt such as with a slide, pump or lever action, the ejection port is to be in the open position for inspection and the rifle is to be cycled at least twice to show no rounds remaining in the magazine.

8.6.2 Two Safety Officers, starting opposite from each end of the line, will inspect the chamber and the magazine of the rifle, thereby ensuring that both are clear of any live rounds or empty cases. Note that it is not necessary to remove an empty magazine for inspection.

8.6.3 Once inspected, each safety officer will audibly declare each rifle 'Clear' before proceeding to the next one. As the two safety officers meet and their duties overlap, the audible order will change to 'Clear to Remove'. Then and only then, will a shooter be permitted to remove the firearm from the firing mound.

8.6.4 The removed bolt is not to be inserted into the rifle unless the rifle and shooter are at a firing point about to commence firing. Once removed the rifle, bolt and other accretions are to be moved to behind the firing area and be kept under visual supervision or be returned and secured out of sight in a locked car.

8.6.5 Where a bolt cannot be conveniently removed a 'Chamber Flag' may be inserted to indicate an unloaded chamber condition.

9 Firing Positions

General - No part of the firer's feet or body is permitted to be in contact with the firing line or be forward of the firing line, excepting as found in 9.3 (Sitting Position). No hole or depressions may be made in the firing point that would assist the competitor.

9.1 Lying Unsupported (Prone)

The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder and all parts of the rifle and the arms below the elbow, including clothing, must be visibly clear of the ground and all other objects. The rifle is to be held with both hands maintaining at all times complete control. If a sling is not used as an aid to steadying the rifle, it may drape to the ground. The rifle and the back of the forward wrist must be physically clear of the ground.

9.1.1 Lying Supported (Assisted Prone)

As in the preceding 9.1 excepting where additional support is provided from the ground to under the back of the forward hand or by use of a bipod is permitted. The rifle is to be held with both hands maintaining at all times complete control.

9.2 Standing Unsupported

The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder with all parts of the rifle and shooter clear of all other objects. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control. The body must be erect and standing on both feet and the upper body may lean slightly forward. The elbow of the forward hand may be placed on the hip. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. If not used is to be removed or gathered up so as not to interfere in any way or manner.

9.2.1 Barricade Firing Positions

The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder. The shooter at all times must be aware of close objects that form part of the firing point. The rifle is to be held with both hands, thereby maintaining complete control. Specifically constructed wall type barricades, and objects (man-made or natural). Barricades to be placed on the firing point in the firer's lane, making the firer adopt alternative firing positions as the barricades and match instructions dictate. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. If not used is to be removed.

9.3 Sitting Position

The weight of the sitting body is to be supported on the ground. No part of the body above the waist is to touch the ground or any other object. Legs may be parted or crossed and may be on or just in front of the edge of the firing point. The hips are not to be positioned forward of the lane marking pegs or in front of the firing mound. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle, if not it may drape to the ground. The elbows may be placed on or against the knees or legs to support the weight of the rifle. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

9.3.1 Sitting Bench Rest

A suitable support to permit a seated position to be taken with front support for the rifle. The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle, if not it may drape to the table. The elbows may be placed on or against the table to support the weight of the rifle, rear support is not used. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

9.4 Kneeling Unsupported

No part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object except the one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The forward elbow / arm may rest on the knee. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

9.5 Squatting Unsupported

The weight of the body is supported on both feet. No other part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object. The buttocks are to be below the knees. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder. The elbows / arms may rest on the knees / legs. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

9.6 Patrol Alert Position

Although not a firing position, it is a method whereby the competitor with an unloaded firearm will transit to the prescribed firing position as indicated in the match conditions under direction of the Range Officer. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

9.6.1 The body must be erect and standing on both feet. No other part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object. The elbow of the forward hand may be placed on the hip. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder and all parts of the rifle must be clear of all other objects. The muzzle of the rifle must be pointed at the ground at an angle of approximately 45 degrees (800mils) depression. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

10 Field & Carbine Procedure

General

Rifles that satisfy the lower velocity, lead only projectile cartridge requirement are permitted for this match and includes any type of action. Permitted calibres are from smallbore up to .45 calibre. No sighting shots are permitted. The match is scored on two targets per firing lane which are self-marked. The match is to be conducted from the standing unsupported position with competitors starting at the 75m firing line, walking down to 50m and then the 25m under control of the Range Officer.

10.1 The match is three serials each of 12 shots, with 6 shots into each target shot in a specific sequence under direction of the Range Officer.

10.1.1 The sequence of shots fired and into which target is as follows;

Load six rounds

- 1 into the left hand target, then 1 into the right hand target
- 2 into the left hand target, then 2 into the right hand target

Reload six rounds, followed by

- 3 into the left hand target, then 3 into the right hand target

10.2 The sequence of shots as called by the Range Officer is the same for each serial. The directions are as follows;

'This match is a walk-down from 75m, then 50m then 25m, you will have 36 rounds secured on you. You will be directed as to the number of rounds and into which target they will be shot'

'Are shooters ready?'

'Shooters form a line at the 75m (or 50m or 25m) mark, in line with your targets'

'Shooters LOAD six rounds'

'Are shooters ready?'

'Shooters are to put one round into the left hand target and one round into the right hand target, then wait'

'Action, Instant, In your own time go on'

'Are all shooters finished?'

'Are shooters ready?'

'Shooters are to put two rounds into the left hand target and two rounds into the right hand target, then wait'

'Action, Instant, In your own time go on'

'Are all shooters finished?'

'Shooters LOAD six rounds'

'Are shooters ready?'

'Shooters are to put three rounds into the left hand target and three rounds into the right hand target, then wait'

'Action, Instant, In your own time go on'

(At the end of the serial)

"Everyone finished?"

"With no rounds in the magazine, chamber clear and action open keep the muzzle pointed down range with the rifle at the carry proceed in a line to the 50m / 25m firing line"

At the next firing line the procedure is followed as set out above. Once all three serials have been completed the directions are as follows;

"Everyone finished?"

"Inspect firearms" (As per 8.6)

"Move forward to score and patch"

On completion bolts are to be removed from rifles, chamber and magazine confirmed clear and for other action types the rifle is to be cycled at least twice showing no rounds present in the magazine and ejection port is to be open for chamber inspection.

The competitor is to keep their bolt on their person and the rifle in a safe condition to be moved back to the 75m firing line by the Range Officer and assistants.

Conduct of Shooting

General

- Firers will assume firing positions to the left of the lane marker peg.
- When the firing detail is called or the match declared open, the competitors are to set-up to the left of the target lane pegs in the allocated firing lane.
- No part of the competitor's body or accoutrements are to encroach into any adjoining firing lane.
- At all times whilst on the mound competitors are under the direct control of the Range Officer whose directions will be followed.
- A minimum of three to a detail per firing lane where once the shooter has completed their serial or match will move to the Butts, the Scorer will set-up as next firer with the person returning from the Butts as Scorer. Where a detail is four or more the Range Officer will direct the change-over as and when appropriate.

11 Deliberate Matches

- a) Sighting shots if the match rules permit are convertible.
- b) In individual deliberate matches, competitors will score for each other.
- c) After each shot, the target is to be withdrawn and examined, a spotting disc inserted and the result displayed. If there is no indication of a strike by means of a spotting disc or the target is not examined, either the competitor or the scorer may request the Range Officer to have it checked.
- d) Each score will be indicated by the use of a marking wand. The score will be clearly told to the competitor by the scorer. The onus is on the competitor to ensure that the score is heard and understood. The competitor will then have the option of either challenging the value of the score or continue shooting.
- e) In deliberate matches the recorded score cannot later be disputed if a challenge to the score value was not notified to the Range Officer before the next shot is fired.
- f) On completion of a deliberate match, the scorer is to sign the score card. It is the competitor's responsibility to check the score card for correctness and then counter sign as acceptance of the score. If the competitor fails to sign the score card the right for all later challenges is forfeited.

12 Timed Matches

- a) Sighting shots if the match rules permit are convertible.
- b) At completion of the match the Range Officer will ask of all competitors if there are any protests. If none, the Range Officer will direct that the targets be scored, spotted then displayed.
- c) The scores from the butt register are relayed by radio to the match scorer and then the competitors who will sign their score cards indicating an acceptance of the score.
- d) If there are any protests, the competitor's target will not be displayed pending resolution of the protest.
- e) A target is not to be patched out until resolution of any protest and / or challenge, and then only by instruction to the Butts Officer from the Range Officer.

13 Marking and Scoring

- a) All sighting shots will be individually marked by a spotting disc and displayed for the competitor to observe. The shot value is to be indicated by a marking wand to the scoring area and then value.
- b) During untimed deliberate matches, all shots are to be marked by a spotting disc. The shot value is to be indicated by a marking wand to the scoring area and then value.

- c) For timed matches, all strikes are marked by spotting discs at the completion of the match and displayed to the competitor by means of a 'firer's view'. No marking wand is used.
- d) Spotting disc indications are white on black and coloured (red / florescent) on white or lighter areas of the target. A hit on the non-scoring portion of the target will be indicated but not recorded.
- e) For deliberate matches and for all sighting shots, the targets are engaged with only the spotting disc representing the last shot displayed.
- f) A spotting disc that has been hit, will not be used again until it is patched out.
- g) For timed matches, spotting discs will not be placed in the shot holes until the score has been taken.
- h) No shot holes, sighters excepted, will be patched out until the order to patch out is given by the Range Officer to the Butts Officer.
- i) When a shot hole touches or breaks the line between two divisions of the scoring areas, the competitor will be credited with the higher value. If there is any doubt, the Butts Officer will adjudicate.
- j) Except for deliberate matches, if less than the maximum number of hits allowed are found, at least two markers are to check the target to determine whether two or more shots have struck close together. This check must be carried out before spotting discs are placed in the holes. If there is still doubt, the Butts Officer is to adjudicate.
- k) A ricochet can only be adjudicated by the Butts Officer with consultation to the target marker and will be signalled as a miss. No spotting disc will be shown regardless of whether the bullet has struck the target or not. A shot will not be marked as a ricochet unless there is clear evidence of it striking the mantlet, i.e., debris showered into the gallery or against the target. An elongated hole is not by itself evidence of a ricochet and unless clear and distinct evidence is present, the shot is to be marked and scored as normal.
- l) Scoring can either be conducted in the Butts by an independent person with the scores relayed to the mound by radio with the scores then taken at the mound.
- m) When using targets other than figure targets, the scoring area is to be indicated by the use of a marking disc or marking wand as follows:-

13.1 Scoring Area Indication

The Marking Wand to be placed over the Spotting Disc showing the position of strike and then moved to communicate score, as follows;

V Bull	5.1	Indicate centre bottom.
Bull	5	Indicate lower right hand corner.
Inner	4	Indicate lower left hand corner.
Magpie	3	Indicate top right hand corner.
Outer	2	Indicate top left hand corner.
Missed	-	Wand waved across target face several times.

A spotting disc may be displayed if the strike is outside the scoring area of the target and the score not be recorded.

13.2 For Figure Targets the score is to be recorded in the butts, spotting discs inserted, target raised to give a 'firer's view', then on withdrawing patch out holes.

14 Challenges

14.1 During deliberate practices and during sighting shots for all other practices, the signalled value of a hit may be challenged once only, before any other shot has been fired at the same

target. The number of hits or the score shown may be challenged only once, when the target is raised at the completion of a match with the spotting discs in position. On receipt of a challenge, the target is to be lowered and the Butts Officer is to personally examine the target, after which the following is to occur:

- a) if the challenge is for a hit or more hits, the hit or miss will be signalled as usual, and
- b) if the challenge is for a higher value, the correct value will be signalled whether it has been signalled or not.

14.2 For timed matches, the call, 'Are there any challenges', will be made by the Range Officer when the targets are displayed upon completion of the practice. This is the final opportunity for a challenge and if received the Butts Officer is to personally examine the target after which the following is to occur;

- a) If the challenge is for the total number of hits, the target is to be examined and raised with the spotting discs showing and the competitor advised of the decision.
- b) If the challenge is for spotting discs showing do not match the relayed score, the target is to be examined and raised with the correct number of spotting discs showing, if possible.

14.3 A fee, if so levied and declared, is payable by the individual competitor or team for failed challenges.

15 Protests

15.1 Any claim or complaint arising at the firing point is to be made at once by way of a protest to the Range Officer. If the resulting decision is disputed, or if the protest is not dealt with on the spot, it must as soon as practicable and not more than 2 hours later be put in writing by the competitor or team and handed to a representative of the organising body. If necessary, the organising body will convene a Disputes Committee to deal with the protest. At the completion of every timed match, the Range Officer is to ask if there are any protests. A protest must be lodged before the targets are exposed for a 'Firer's View'. A protest may consist of, but not limited to, the following;

- a) During snap matches, the target may be slow in being exposed, short exposure, not steady, break, or fail to be exposed. If the protest is upheld, the competitor is to be granted an additional exposure / s or a re-shoot of the match at the discretion of the Competition Director or the senior Range Officer.
- b) During rapid matches, the target may be slow in being exposed, short exposure, not steady, break, or fail to be exposed. If the protest is upheld, the competitor is to be granted a re-shoot of the match in its entirety.

16 Excess Hits

16.1 When, in any practice or series of practices, the total number of hits on a competitor's target or targets exceeds the number of shots fired and when there is no means of discriminating between these shots based on the order of their arrival or calibre, the procedure will then be as follows;

- a) If it can be proved that the excess hits were made by the competitor or team firing more than the total number of shots allowed in the match, the score will be disallowed and the penalty may be disqualification.

- b) When the total number of excess hits does not exceed two, the score will be the highest score up to the number of shots permitted to be fired in the practice. The hits of the lowest value will be deemed excess and are to be disregarded.
- c) When the number of excess hits exceeds two for a single target.
- d) engagement, the score will be cancelled and the competitor is to be advised that they must re-shoot. The target is to be patched out and NOT to be shown with spotting discs in place and the score is NOT to be advised to the competitor. A re-shoot will be as for the original shoot, including:
 - 1. sighters, if any,
 - 2. previous movement, if any, and / or
 - 3. the number of counting shots actually fired.
- e) When a competitor has more than one target to engage, and there is no excess in the total number of hits, but there are more hits on one particular target than are allowed by the match conditions, the extra hits on this target will be dealt with as outlined in sub-paragraph 16.1.b.
- f) When different targets are used at different times throughout a practice, the score made on the target without excess hits will stand, the above rules will only apply to a target with excess hits.

16.2 Firing on Wrong Target

If it is observed that a firer is firing on the wrong target, the Range Officer will stop the non-offending and offending competitors at the earliest possible moment. The non-offending competitors will, without option, re-shoot the whole match. The offending competitor / s will NOT re-shoot.

17 Timing

17.1 A stop-watch, clock or electronic timer is to be used for the timing of exposures or the duration of firing. Target exposures are to be timed by the Butts Officer or their nominated timer.

- a) The timing window for mechanical targets start when the target is in the up position and stops when the target begins to fall. Shots fired on the target on the upward movement and after the target begins the downward movement are outside the window and will not be scored.
- b) When timing is carried out at the firing point for ranges that do not have butts or mechanical targets, an electronic or pneumatic horn (or the like) is to be sounded as the signal to indicate the start and end of the time limit except when stated otherwise in the match conditions. The beginning of the horn indicates the start of the exposure and the beginning of the second horn marks the end of the exposure. This rule applies to those timed practices where fixed targets are used and the time limit is indicated by a horn or other device. No penalty will be imposed when a single round is fired during the indication, but all subsequent rounds will incur a penalty.

17.2 Deliberate Practice

In a deliberate rifle practice the time allowed for a competitor to fire a shot is 20 or 45 seconds depending on the match rules. This time is taken from the Range Officer's order to 'Go on' in the case of the first shot, and from the time the target is raised in the case of all subsequent shots.

Neither adjustment of sights, nor firearm malfunction, nor shooter unpreparedness is to be allowed as a cause of delay. Any competitor who exceeds this time limit will, after being

cautioned and timed will forfeit the value of any subsequent shot where the time limit is exceeded.

17.3 Timed Exposures

In a timed exposure the raising and lowering of targets is to be carried out as quickly as possible. In all types of practices the exposure will be timed from the moment the last target is up and stationary until the time it is lowered. (Targets are not to be spun 360 degrees or otherwise manipulated when hit). No oral indication as to how the time is passing is allowed except where match conditions permit such.

18 Disturbance

18.1 No person is to deliberately make any noise that is likely to affect a firer during the conduct of a match.

- a) Where a firer or team before a match or competition commences wishes to make a protest about the conduct of the match, or match conditions, they must inform the Range Officer accordingly.
- b) If a competitor has a protest during the conduct of a match, it may be necessary to inform the Range Officer of the protest quickly; that is, during rapid and snap practices or if the firer cannot gain their attention. In such cases the firer is to unload and make-safe the firearm then call 'Protest' and raise their arm, or raise their leg if in the prone position.
- c) At the completion of the match and upon the call from the Range Officer, 'Are there any protests', the competitor is to make themselves known and identify the nature of the protest as per 16.15.

18.2 Coaching is NOT permitted in individual matches. In team matches, unless the contrary is stated in the match rules, coaching is permitted by members of the team, by the Team Captain, and by a coach if one is appointed.

A coach is not permitted to touch the firer or the firearm in any way. Particularly, a coach is not permitted to load the firearm for the firer or to adjust the sights.

18.3 Team Reserves

- a) Reserves may only be employed if a member of the team sustains an injury and is unable to continue. The organiser is to approve nominated substitutes / reserves prior to the match at time of sign-in. The injured member can return to the competition and complete the remaining individual matches once the injury has healed or illness passed sufficiently.
- b) Where team scores are an aggregate of a number of individual matches, the scores for the matches completed by the injured member are to stand, and the scores achieved by the replacement member are to be attributed to remaining matches for the aggregate. The injured member can return to the team once they have recovered.

19 Tied Scores - 'Count Back'

19.1 In all matches with a tied score the winner is determined by counting back from the last shot fired. The competitor with the last shot of a higher value is the winner. If the scores are still tied, the second last shot is considered, then the third last shot and so on.

19.2 If the tie remains unresolved, a shoot-off consisting of a non-convertible sighting shot is followed by five scoring shots. If still equal, the competitors are to fire shot for shot until the tie is broken.

19.3 For an aggregate, the count back is to be applied from the last match, and if still not resolved, the second last match and so on.

19.4 Following any determination due to tied scores, the original match scores are to be the competition record, not the re-shoot scores. Re-shoot scores only apply for the purpose of determining a winner.

20 Dangerous Act

20.1 For any dangerous practise, e.g., negligent discharge, the competitor will be immediately stopped from firing any more rounds by the Range Officer and ordered to 'unload' and 'make safe' the firearm ready for inspection. If the competitor is disqualified, they will remove themselves from the mound and the match score will be forfeited. Investigation of the 'dangerous act' will be initiated by the organising body immediately, and the competitor advised of any further action taken. If the dangerous act was not at the completion of the practice and in the opinion of the investigating body, the disqualification cannot be substantiated, the competitor will be permitted to re-shoot the match.

20.2 No competitor, range staff or any others are to go forward of the firing line to retrieve any item until it is deemed safe to do so by the Range Officer as noted at 4.1.6.

21 Disqualification

21.1 A competitor and / or team disqualification can only be as a result of an investigation initiated by the organising body on a recommendation of the Range Officer.

21.2 Disqualification will be automatic for any substantiated dangerous act, deliberate cheating, breach of safety protocols or committing an intentional breach of the rules whereby the offending competitor and / or team gains an advantage and / or safety is put at risk.

21.3 The disqualification can apply to the whole or a part of the competition, or to the match in which the transgression occurs pending the results and recommendations from the investigative process.

21.4 Disqualification will be adjudicated upon by the Range Officer if the breach is eminently clear in the first instance and / or the organising body should the Range Officer elect to escalate the matter.

22.5 This rule applies to those timed practices where fixed targets are used and the time limit is indicated by a horn or other device. For firing after the time limit a competitor will have deducted from their score the maximum number of points that could have been scored by the shots fired after the time limit. If this results in a minus quantity the score will be recorded as NIL. No penalty will be imposed when a single round is fired during the indication, but all subsequent rounds will incur a penalty.

22 Unauthorised & Accidental Discharge

22.1 An Unauthorised Discharge is defined as an event where the firer deliberately fires without having received a command or authority to do so from the Range Officer e.g. firing before the command 'Watch and Shoot'. If found to be deliberate this is a serious breach of protocol.

22.2 In the event of an Unauthorised Discharge, the competitor may, at the discretion of the Range Officer be disqualified from the match. Note that, in the event of an Unauthorised Discharge the firer may continue the match. However, that round fired will not be counted towards the firers' score for that particular match; if that round cannot be identified the highest possible score for a single round for that match will be deducted.

22.3 Accidental Discharge is where a competitor who, whilst on the firing point, accidentally discharges their firearm. They will not be allowed a replacement round and the shot recorded as a miss.

23 Inspection of Rifles

23.1 Prior to the competition starting, all rifles may be inspected by suitably qualified or knowledgeable adjudicators from the organising body. Each rifle that is deemed fit for competition purposes by meeting the requirements of its respective class, is to have some visible means of recognition displaying the fact. Any competitor who uses a rifle in the competition that does not show the correct recognition displayed is liable to disqualification.

23.2 Each competitor is permitted to have only one rifle inspected for the competition and the serial number of the rifle is to be recorded by the organising body. If that inspected rifle fails or becomes unserviceable in the eyes of the Range Officer or a suitably qualified or knowledgeable adjudicator from the organising body, then, and only then, will the competitor be allowed to use a replacement rifle. The replacement rifle is to have the same visible means of recognition applied and the serial number is to be recorded as a replacement. This will negate any attempt by the competitor to have and use several different rifles for the competition.

24 Illegal Modification of Rifle

24.1 If any illegal modification to a rifle, defined as any modification / addition, which has the potential to change the class of a rifle, is found after the competitor has commenced or fired a match, the score will be forfeit and an adjudication made by the Range Officer and / or the organising body as to disqualification.

25 Course of Fire

25.1 The planned course of fire is to be promulgated before the competition and may be modified by the convening body to suit local circumstances. When the convening body plans the course of fire, the match conditions are to be adhered to for all deliberate and timed matches.

26 Physical Handicap / Impairment

26.1 If a competitor is suffering from physical impairment or handicap that precludes firing from the designated position, they are permitted with the concurrence of the Range Officer to fire the match from a shooting position of the next higher degree of difficulty provided that the position is allowed to be used on the range;

- a) Prone becomes Sitting
- b) Sitting becomes Kneeling
- c) Kneeling becomes Standing.

Note that, a bench is a designated shooting position that can be substituted for any other position on approval of the Club.

Also note, the physical handicap / impairment must not affect safe handling of the rifle.

26.2 A competitor who has lost the effective use of a hand may, after obtaining approval from the Club, use an artificial rest to support the fore end of the rifle. The artificial rest shall be flat on top and padded so that the contact area does not exceed 50mm in length and under no circumstances is to be attached to the rifle.

26.3 A competitor who is unable to comply with the match conditions due to physical disability or impairment may be permitted to shoot if in the opinion of the Club they are able to comply with the safety rules and obtain no advantage over any other competitor.

26.4 Where a competitor is non-ambulatory, ie, in a wheel chair or on sticks, they are to be provided such support as is practicable to permit safe, enjoyable participation.

27 Targets

27.1 Targets used will be;

- a) Type A, B, D, and Figure 11, 12, 13 and 14
- b) Modified ICFRA targets
- c) Any as nominated by the Club or in match rules.

27.1.1 For the Field & Carbine walk-down match two targets of the Field & Carbine design per firing lane will be used.

27.1.2 Where match conditions specify '5 and 4' or 'hit and miss' scoring on Figure targets then Classic target patterns are to be used.

27.1.3 In Black Powder matches armour steel gongs can be used.

27.2 Class and Application of Target

- a) There are three Classes of target;
 - Third Class - 1200mm x 1200mm
 - Second Class - 1800mm x 1800mm
 - First Class - 2400mm x 1800mm.

- b) The class of target to be applied at the following distances;
 - Third Class - 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m
 - Second Class - 500m, 600m
 - First Class - 700m, 800m.

27.3 All Type A, B, D, and Figure 11, 12, 13 and 14 targets will have scoring rings printed or inscribed where appropriate either directly as part of the face or by adhesive decal.

27.4 All targets will have at the centre point a white circular patch no greater than 18mm (3/4 inch) applied and when struck will be indicated as a pin-hole. There is no award unless indicated in match conditions promulgated by the organisers.

27.5 Electronic Targets

27.5.1 When electronic targets are in use it is permissible to use targets with First Class or Second Class dimensions at all distances.

27.5.2 When shooting Service Rifle Matches up to 300m on electronic targets the following upgrading of scoring rings to Modified ICFRA is to occur.

100m, 200m & 300m - Use 500m centres and 500m scoring on computers

28 Grading

28.1 Common Grading Match

All member grades will shot with a Standard Class SR'a' firearm, no less than two times during the shooting year over 200m and 300m in a deliberate application match. If the member does not own a suitable rifle the Club will provide it. It is to be presumed, until two grading shoots have been recorded the member is 'A' Grade'.

28.2 Any appropriate match can be considered a Grade Shoot as set out in the match rules applicable. The member is to nominate at commencement to the scorer that that particular match is to be considered for grading purposes.

28.3 In cases of new competitors or a member who has not completed the required number of grading shoots to be awarded a Club grading within the grading period, then the Club Captain or Statistician shall award a grading commensurate to the competitor's ability.

28.4 Competitors from any other association not possessing proof of a grade or grading card will automatically be awarded a grading of 'A'. Visitors are welcome to attend and compete but will not be eligible for prizes and awards.

28.5 Any competitor graded as either 'B' or 'C' grade who enters and wins an aggregate event with a score that exceeds the average of all in their their grade, will be upgraded to the next highest grade. The upgrading will apply from the conclusion of the day for a period of twelve months.

28.6 Once a competitor has been graded to 'A' grade, they cannot return to 'C' grade until they have spent a period of one year in 'B' Grade.

28.7 The awarding of a Club Grading to a member will be on a percentage basis of the maximum score from two matches totalling 100.20;

'A' GRADE score will be $\Rightarrow 80\% = 80$ to 100

'B' GRADE score will be $\Rightarrow 60\% < 80\% = 60$ to 79

'C' GRADE score will be $< 60\% = 0$ to 59.

Note that, should the maximum score be either 59 or 79 with 10 or more 'V' centre bulls, then one point shall be added lifting the grade up one level.

GUIDANCE

Military Ammunition - Cleaning after use

The primer composition in most military ammunition will coat the bore with metallic salts which if not removed will induce rust very quickly as the salts are hygroscopic (water absorbing). If in doubt presume salts to be present.

The first part in cleaning is simply pouring very hot / boiling water through from the chamber to the muzzle using a funnel so as to prevent water entering the breech or magazine. An explanation follows from "Musketry Regulations Part 1 (1912 with amendments)" at page 35;

"93. In order that the "Instructions for Cleaning" may be understood, it is essential that the causes of fouling in rifle barrels should be briefly explained. Fouling may be said to be of two kinds:-(a) Internal - probably caused by the forcing of gas or harmful material into the pores of the metal; (b) Superficial - caused by the deposit in the bore of the solid products of combustion of the charge and of the cap composition.

The result of neglect in either case is the same, viz, the formation of rust in the bore and, as a consequence, corroded barrels, calling for the excessive use of wire-gauze, or even more drastic treatment, thereby causing unnecessary wear.

Internal fouling can be removed satisfactorily by the use of boiling water."

Note: 'Wire-gauze' was a wartime field expedient used with the pull-through cord. Its' use is discouraged as it is severe and unnecessary due to availability today of cleaning rods, jags and solvents. Apart for the surface damage to the lands, the cord as it exits the muzzle will invariably rub causing wear at the critical point of the muzzle, the crown.

Range & Butts Officers and Assistants / Safety Officers

All will hold Cat. A/B licenses. Any member who has previously received accreditation will be recognised by the Club as being so accredited until such time as implementation of processes and accreditation system/s occurs.

Members called on to be Assistants / Safety Officers shall be chosen from those of a known capability and experience to undertake tasks so required of them as directed by a Range or Butts Officer.

18Bn MRC - RANGE SAFETY BRIEF

General

1. The North Shore Regional Target Shooting Complex, also known as Hornsby Rifle Range, consists of the Main Range (800m), Multi-Use Range(100m) and Smallbore Range (50m). In the area adjoining the range, on the right as you drive in, is located various Club Huts, ablutions block and car parking.

Range Staff

2. Range Safety Staff, supporting personnel and their duties are as follows:

a. Range Officer.

The RO is in overall control of the safe conduct of the range in use and responsible for all orders given. Where more than one range is concurrently in use they will liaise directly and / or by radio with the other Range Officer/s.

b. Safety Supervisor.

The SS is a Club member responsible for the safety of firers under their control and report directly to the RO. They are to directly supervise no more than three firers except where an unlicensed firer having completed a form P650 then supervision is to be one-on-one.

c. Ammunition Control.

The AC will be a Club member who is licenced as an Armourer to issue and record ammunition issue and / or sales and has received range safety training and is familiar on the firearm/s being used.

d. Butts Officer.

The BO is responsible for the control of target exposures and / or scoring as required by the practice and the safe conduct of the butts.

e. Match Umpire.

The Match Umpire, where appointed, is to oversee the conduct of the match to ensure it is run in accordance with the rules and match details and is to process all challenges and protests.

f. Scorers.

Scorers are to transfer the verbal, written or visual scores to the score cards and are to ensure that the individual or team captain signs for the number of hits.

g. Time Keeper.

The Time Keeper, where appointed, is to ensure that the exposure timings are in accordance with the match details and indicate the exposures by voice, whistle or horn.

h. Marshals.

Marshals, where appointed, are to organise the next detail, scrutinise equipment and conduct trigger tests.

Location of Waiting Areas / Toilets

3. Designated waiting areas are identifiable at each range where set out. Toilets and showers are available at the Club Hut area.

Location of Administration Areas / Rubbish

4. Rubbish is to be taken with you and disposed of in a suitable bin. Rubbish bins are also located at the toilets, butts and target shed.

Location of Smoking Areas

5. Smoking may be conducted in waiting areas away from the firing line. There is to be NO SMOKING WITHIN 6 METRES OF ANY AMMUNITION POINT OR WHERE AMMUNITION IS LOCATED EG FIRERS EQUIPMENT.

Bushfire

6. Shooting is not to undertaken on days where a ban is notified. Where a bushfire is occurring within or adjacent to the range danger zone shooting is to cease, all people present to be accounted for and in an orderly manner retire to a safe area.

Medical Location

9. A First Aid Kit is located with the Range Officer. The Range brief will detail the medical plan and location of First Aid Kit and defibrillator.

Designated Medic

10. Those with first aid training will provide first aid for any casualties assisting as required.

Medical Evacuation Plan

11. The practice will be stopped, firearms unloaded and cleared. First Aid will be applied and if warranted by delay of an Ambulance, evacuate the casualty as required. The closest emergency department is at Hornsby Hospital. There are no emergency facilities at Mt. Wilga Rehabilitation hospital.

Location of Safety Vehicle and Route to be taken.

12. A nominated Safety Vehicle is to be located on the range. The route taken for evacuation is along Rosamond Street, then to the Hornsby town centre, into Edgeworth David Avenue then to Hornsby Hospital. Safety vehicle drivers are to be familiar with the evacuation route.

Firearm Handling

13. Firearm handling is to in accordance with best safe practice. The bolt is to be removed or trigger lock fitted (for slide / pump or lever actions) at all times the rifle is not on the firing line in use. Handling of firearms is to have the muzzle of the firearm pointed in a safe direction. When not at the firing line the firearm is to be under direct supervision or locked out of sight in a vehicle.

Firearm Safe Handling (Dry Fire) Area

15. A firearm will only be operated on the firing line with the approval of the RO who will direct the dry-firing to occur at an unoccupied firing position or permit such prior to a match or serial commencing.

Action on Muzzle Blockage

17. If at any time the firearm is dropped and / or the muzzle becomes blocked, the firearm IS NOT to be fired until the muzzle / barrel is proved clear of any foreign matter to the satisfaction of the Range Officer.

Action on Malfunction or Prolonged Stoppage

18. Firearms which malfunction on a firing point are to be unloaded and inspected clear before they are removed and / or repaired. If in a fire with movement match, the safety catch is to be applied and the firer will move with the detail. Where the firearm cannot be unloaded and cleared, because of a malfunction, it is to remain pointing down range until cleared.

Emergency Stop Signal

19. The order STOP and / or a prolonged WHISTLE BLAST will be given.

ANYONE CAN GIVE THE EMERGENCY STOP SIGNAL IF THEY BELIEVE AN UNSAFE PRACTICE IS ABOUT TO OCCUR OR IN THE EVENT OF A BREACH OF SAFETY.

Action on Emergency Stop Signal

20. Should any emergency or unsafe practice occur on the range, firing is to cease immediately. The initial order for such a cease-fire may be given by ANY PERSON shouting "STOP, STOP, STOP" in a loud, clear voice. The Range Officer is immediately to order cease-fire or initiate a predetermined action to signal "STOP" eg prolonged whistle blast. On being ordered to "STOP", firers are to place safety devices on their firearm at SAFE and, if possible, place the weapons on the ground and wait for further orders.

Range Brief and Layout

21. Range and match briefs will be given by the Range Officer or a nominated person.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

22. Hearing and sight protection are recommended at all times.

SAMPLE MATCH PROCEDURE

The following procedure is generic for some matches and may vary slightly on each range due to layout and / or match rules:

Competitors	Move forward when called by Marshall or Range Officer
Marshall	Equipment Check (including weighing) Trigger Weight Check (if applicable) Lane Draw (if applicable)
Ammunition Officer	Issue ammunition

Competitors	Move to briefing area and fill magazines
Marshall / Scorer	Collect score cards Magazine check (random)
Competitors	Move to firing point when called forward by the RO
Range Officer	Conduct match as required by the match conditions Inspect Weapons and clear load carrying equipment
Umpire	On completion of the match deal with any protests
Competitors	On order from the RO move to the scorer and sign card / challenge score. On signing the scorecard move clear of the firing point.
Ammunition Officer	Collect spent cases for recycle

.end